

1. A security method for controlling use of an executable application, said method comprising the steps of:

procuring a software executable policy enforcement agent which, when invoked, imposes one or more conditions on successful execution, and which, when successfully executed, invokes execution of said executable application;

encapsulating said executable application with said policy enforcement agent without changing said executable application, to thereby produce a combined program;

substituting said combined program for said executable application, so that said policy enforcement agent executes instead of said executable application program when said executable application is invoked; and

one of (a) satisfying said conditions of said control module, whereby said executable application executes, and (b) not satisfying said conditions, whereby said executable application does not execute.

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firewall program.

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X.509 based digital certificate.

further comprising the step of translating at

least some information from said digital  
certificate into a form recognizable by said  
5 executable application.

9. A method for policy enforcement  
in relation to an executable application, said  
method comprising the steps of:

procuring a software control element  
5 which is identifiable to a host operating  
system as an executable program and which  
includes an execution component for executing  
said executable application, and which also  
contains a set of conditions which must be met  
10 in order to invoke said executable application;  
combining said software control  
element with said executable application, to  
form a combined program;  
substituting said combined program  
15 for said executable application;  
commanding execution of said combined  
program, to thereby execute said software  
control element, whereupon said execution  
component is invoked if said conditions are  
20 met, and said executable application executes.

10. A method according to claim 9,  
wherein software control element includes a  
header identifying the locations of executable  
and data portions of said control element, and  
5 said step of combining said software control  
element with said executable application  
includes the steps of:  
appending said executable application

- 10 to said software control element in a location  
identified by said software control element as  
a data location; and  
updating said header of said software  
control module to correspond with the  
characteristics of said combined program.